GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2600
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
INDIGENOUS FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the WTO regime, the Centrehas decided to safeguard the Indigenous food processing industry and also provide market access for Indian products;

(b) whether the Confederation of Indian Food Trade had organiseda summit on intensification of agro processing in India and removal of hurdles and import rationalisation;

(c) whether the food processing industry has approached the centre for a comprehensive package of incentives;

(d) if so, the decisions of the Government thereto; and

(e) the extent to which the Government are likely to face challenges posed by WTO regime?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a): Steps have been taken to provide a level playing field for the Indian Industry.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): Prior to Budget 2001-2002 representations were received from All India Food Processors' Association and otherIndustry Associations for excise relief and other tax concessions.

(d): Budget 2001-2002 has proposed Zero duty on processed Fruits and Vegetables products and for grant of tax holiday for Industrial Estates.

(e): The Government is taking necessary steps to provide level playing field for meeting the challenges like imposing import duty on MRP, imposing suitable duty on imported processed food items and making all imports to strictly comply with the requirements of Indian Laws.